

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AF-04 IO-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 H-01 T-01 RSR-01

/058 W

----- 027530

R 120930 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7708

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 0882

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PO

SUBJECT: CAETANO BACKGROUNDER

1. RELIABLE LOCAL JOURNALIST HAD HOUR'S DEEP BACKGROUND SESSION WITH P. M. CAETANO MARCH 8. CAETANO, WHO WAS IN A RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE MOOD, STRESSED FOLLOWING THEMES:

(A) P. M. SAW SOME EVOLUTION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN LISBON AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, BUT SEEMED UNCERTAIN OF DIRECTION THAT EVOLUTION TAKING. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE FORESAW "MORE BRAZILS" HE APPEARED TO HAVE NO CLEAR DESIGN.

(B) P. M. DOUBTED THAT THE CHANGES NECESSARY FOR RESOLUTION OF PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN PROBLEMS WOULD OCCUR DURING HIS TENURE IN OFFICE AND REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES HE "NOT A DICTATOR". BEST HE COULD DO WAS TO REACT TO EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY OCCUR, RATHER THAN INSTITUTE PLAN FOR FUTURE.

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(C) IN EXCHANGE WITH JOURNALIST ON HOW
PORTUGAL IS SEEN FROM ABROAD, CAETANO SAID ATTITUDES
TOWARDS PORTUGAL HAVE IN GENERAL NOT RPT NOT
IMPROVED.

(D) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, CAETANO ADMITTED
THAT GOP FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ROUND UP CANDIDATES
FOR OVERSEAS PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
IN LATE MARCH (LISBON 836) . P. M. NOTED GOVERNMENT
HAMSTRUNG BY LAW PROHIBITING CIVIL SERVANTS FROM
HOLDING ELECTIVE OFFICE AND ALSO RELUCTANT TO SEEK
CHANGE LAW BY DECREE OR ARBITRARY MEANS.

POST

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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